Meet the SPoRT Team



Robert Atkinson (USRA) has expertise in remote sensing and processing of this data. He currently works with manipulating MODIS and AMSR-E imagery for product generation.



Scott Dembek (USRA) has expertise in running NWP models and generating real-time scripts. He currently supports the National Severe Storms Lab (NSSL) where he maintains scripts that run their real-time WRF and evaluates SPoRT products such as the LIS and MODIS SSTs used within the context of the NSSL WRF.



Dennis Buechler (UAHuntsville) has expertise in lightning measurement and use of lightning data. He maintains the various Lightning Mapping Array networks and ensures the continuous flow of these data to SPoRT's partners. He is also currently working to develop a lightning warning product.



Kevin Fuell (UAHuntsville) is one of SPoRT's liaisons responsible for dissemination of SPoRT products to its partners. He brings expertise in development of training modules and assessment tools to aid in the transition of SPoRT products. Mr. Fuell's current projects include evaluation of SPoRT's MODIS SST composite in the WRF model.



Jason Burks (NWS Huntsville) is the Information Technology Officer (ITO) at the Huntsville National Weather Service Forecast Office. He has assisted with transition and integration of SPORT products into the Huntsville AWIPS display software and currently works in AWIPS II development and product ingest.



Dr. Gary Jedlovec (NASA) is the PI for the SPoRT program. He has expertise in techniques and applications of remotely sensed observations. His current work includes development of the SPoRT/JPL MODIS SST composite product and oversight of the SPoRT program and its activities.



Jonathan Case (ENSCO, Inc.) has expertise in conducting NWP experiments using NASA datasets. He is currently working with NASA's LIS software and WRF model to study the impact of improved initialization of land surface on models. He is also evaluating the impact of SPORT's MODIS SST products on the WRF model.



Frank LaFontaine (Raytheon) has expertise in remote sensing and processing of satellite data. He works with processing of MODIS and AMSR-E data products—providing a plethora of EOS products to the National Weather Service and other SPORT partners. Mr. LaFontaine also works in development and evaluation of the SPORT MODIS SST composite products.



Dr. Shih-Hung Chou (NASA) has expertise in conducting numerical weather predication and data assimilation sensitivity experiments using NASA datasets. He is currently working on assimilation of AIRS profile data into the WRF model and evaluation of the model output.



Dr. Eugene (Bill) McCaul (USRA) has expertise in NWP physics schemes and lightning observations. He currently works to ingest lightning observations into numerical weather prediction models and provides support for the Geostationary Lightning Mapper data in the ongoing GOES-R Proving Ground activities.



Chris Darden (NWS Huntsville) is the Science Operations Officer (SOO) at the Huntsville National Weather Service Weather Forecast Office. He works with the SPORT liaisons to ensure successful transition and use of SPORT products at the NWS. He is an advocate for SPORT products at his office.



Kevin McGrath (Jacobs) has expertise in data/image processing and use of display software. His current work includes generation and distribution of products transitioned to The Weather Channel and use of GIS shapefiles. Mr. McGrath is also involved in AWIPS II development activities.



Paul Meyer (NASA) has expertise in information technology and website development. He currently works on maintenance of the Earth Science Office's real-time GOES feeds as well as development of the SPoRT website. Mr. Meyer is also working to document SPoRT's real-time scripts.



Jaclyn Shafer (UAHuntsville) has expertise with statistical analysis and processing of remotely sensed observations. She is currently working to analyze results from the SPoRT/JPL MODIS SST composite work and to preprocess and statistically analyze the quality of IASI profiles for future products and analyses.



Andrew Molthan (NASA) is a NASA Co-Op student with the SPORT program finishing up his PhD degree at UAHuntsville. Andrew has expertise in use of CloudSat data and physical schemes within NWP models. His current work involves validation of WRF cloud parameterizations and curation of The Wide World of SPORT Blog.



Matt Smith (UAHuntsville) has expertise in code development for display software systems. He currently works on AWIPS II development activities for SPoRT and is involved in GOES-R Proving Ground activities.



Erik Reimers (USRA) has expertise in computer science and web design. He is the webmaster for SPoRT's website—changing the structure and design of the SPoRT website and Wide World of SPoRT Blog. Currently, Mr. Reimers is maintaining and continuously updating the SPoRT website and assisting with other computational activities.



Jayanthi Srikishen (USRA) has experience in computer science. Her current activities include compilation and maintenance of WRF model, WRF-Var and GSI data assimilation, and MET verification softwares along with assisting researchers in code implementation.



Matthew Rigney (UAHuntsville) has expertise in data assimilation and ensemble Kalman filters. He is currently working to develop a composite SST objective analysis product that combines MODIS and AMSR-E observations. He is also adapting an ensemble Kalman filter technique for assimilation of NASA satellite data.



Dr. Geoffrey Stano (ENSCO, Inc.) is one of the SPORT program liaisons who oversee the dissemination of SPORT products to its partners and has expertise in lightning remote sensing and applications. He is currently working with transition and applications of LMA data and in AWIPS II development and GOES-R Proving Ground activities.



Diane Samuelson (NASA) has expertise in information technology and website development. Currently, she works in the role of SPoRT project manager and editor of the the SPoRT Quarterly Reports. She also assists in SPoRT web activities.



Bradley Zavodsky (NASA) has expertise in data assimilation and hyperspectral sounder remote sensing. His work includes processing and assimilation of AIRS profile data into regional models. He has also worked in design and development of the SPoRT website.